
POSITION: Director, Discovery Chemistry

Date: 29/09/2025

Type of contract: Permanent (CDI)

Field: Biotech / Health / Antibiotic resistance

Working time: Full-time

Location: Lyon Gerland, France

Start date: As soon as possible

Ref: ATX25-09

Presentation of the company:

AUROBAC THERAPEUTICS is a biopharmaceutical company founded in 2022 by three highly renowned life sciences innovation companies, Boehringer Ingelheim, Evotec and bioMérieux.

Dedicated to addressing high unmet medical needs associated with infections and their complications in acute hospital settings, amidst the growing threat of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), AUROBAC is advancing a robust pipeline of drug candidates.

With strong growth ahead, within an international environment, the company is now looking for a **Director of Discovery Chemistry**.

Description:

As **Director of Discovery Chemistry** at AUROBAC, you will lead our discovery chemistry strategy and execution, including medicinal, computational and other chemistry-related activities, from hit generation through to candidate nomination. This will include the evaluation of in-licensing and co-development opportunities and the management of in-house and externally outsourced or partnered discovery chemistry operations.

The successful candidate will be a scientific leader with deep expertise in medicinal chemistry and related disciplines applied to anti-infective drug discovery, strong leadership skills, and a proven track record of advancing molecules into development.

You will report to the CSO and work closely with the executive team to develop and implement scientific strategies and plans, as well as ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.

Missions:

- **Discovery Chemistry Leadership**
 - ✓ Lead and expand the discovery chemistry function, setting strategic priorities for antibiotic discovery programs
 - ✓ Oversee compound design, synthesis, SAR development, and optimization to balance potency, safety, PK/PD, and developability
 - ✓ Oversee project management across discovery programs, ensuring clear objectives, realistic timelines, and resource allocation to drive compounds from design through preclinical milestones
 - ✓ Monitor project planning, proactively identifying risks, adjusting priorities, and communicating progress and decisions to leadership and external partners
 - ✓ Provide scientific leadership and mentoring for the chemistry team

- ✓ Define the correct structure for discovery chemistry activities between in-house capabilities versus external sourcing
- ✓ Manage internal and external resources (CROs, academic collaborators, strategic partners)
- ✓ Collaborate with cross-functional teams (biology, DMPK, pharmacology, clinical) to deliver high-quality candidates
- **Scientific Evaluation & Strategic Innovation**
 - ✓ Play a key role in defining company strategy and direction within the AUROBAC leadership team
 - ✓ Stay strongly engaged with advances in antibiotic drug discovery, resistance mechanisms, medicinal chemistry and computer-aided discovery methodologies
 - ✓ Contribute to publications, patents, and represent the company at scientific conferences

Personal skills:

- Strong demonstrable leadership and scientific skills
- Innovative and visionary problem-solver
- Strong in both strategic thinking and day-to-day execution to achieve operational excellence
- Excellent communication skills, both internally and with external partners
- Fluency in English is a must-have, French language skills would be a major plus

Professional experience:

- PhD in Medicinal Chemistry, Organic Chemistry, or related field
- 12+ years of experience in drug discovery, with a focus on anti-infectives/antibiotics strongly preferred
- Proven success in advancing compounds from hit to lead to development candidate
- Strong knowledge of antibacterial pharmacology, resistance mechanisms, and Gram-negative penetration challenges
- Experience with managing and growing high-performing scientific teams
- Demonstrated ability to work collaboratively across disciplines and with external partners

To apply, please send your **CV and cover letter** application to jobs@aurobac-tx.com mentioning the reference **ATX25-09**

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